

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05096 021534Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4252

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5096

DEPT FOR EUR/RPM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: BASKET III: EDUCATION: YUGOSLAV/FRENCH COMPROMISE
PROPOSAL ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

REF: (A) GENEVA 4500; (B) GENEVA A-111

1. YUGOSLAV AND FRENCH DELS HAVE NOW CIRCULATED FOLLOWING
COMPROMISE TEXT ON ABOVE SUBJECT, WHICH WE DO NOT BELIEVE
WILL CAUSE ANY DIFFICULTIES FOR DEPARTMENT. UNLESS OTHERWISE
INSTRUCTED, WE PLAN TO SUPPORT IT AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION:
BEGIN TEXT:

--THE PARTICIPATING STATES, RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION
WHICH NATIONAL MINORITIES OR REGIONAL CULTURES CAN MAKE TO
CO-OPERATION AMONG THEM IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF EDUCATION, INTEND
TO FACILITATE THIS CONTRIBUTION, WHERE THESE MINORITIES
OR CULTURES EXIST, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OF LEGITIMATE INTERESTS
OF THEIR MEMBERS. END TEXT.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05096 021534Z

2. COMMENT: IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON ABOVE PROPOSAL, GREEK, SPANISH AND TURKISH REPS HAVE EXPRESSED VARIOUS RESERVATIONS, AND YUGOSLAVS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO OBTAIN TEXT ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT (REF B).

3. PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION IN EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT YUGOSLAVS ARE ASKING FOR SIMULTANEOUS AGREEMENT ON FOURTH SENTENCE IN SEVENTH PRINCIPLE DEALING WITH RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES. YUGOSLAV/FRENCH DELS HAVE PROPOSED FOLLOWING COMPROMISE LANGUAGE ON THIS POINT:
BEGIN TEXT:

THE PARTICIPATING STATES ON WHOSE TERRITORY NATIONAL MINORITIES EXIST WILL RESPECT THE RIGHT OF PERSONS BELONGING TO SUCH MINORITIES TO EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW, WILL AFFORD THEM THE FULL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ACTUAL ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOM AND WILL, IN THIS MANNER, PROTECT THEIR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS IN THIS SPHERE. END TEXT.

4. WHILE THIS LANGUAGE APPEARS ACCEPTABLE TO US, IT TOO HAS ENCOUNTERED INITIAL OPPOSITION FROM SEVERAL DELS, E.G. BULGARIANS HAVE ARGUED THAT THERE IS AN AMBIGUITY IN FINAL CLAUSE WHICH MUST BE CLARIFIED.

5. INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS AMONG SPECIALLY-INTERESTED DELS ARE CONTINUING ON THESE TEXTS. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY COMMENTS DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE ON THEM AT THIS JUNCTURE. DALE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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